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LETTER DATED 11 MARCH 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter from His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, Minister for Foreign Affairs, expressing his support for your wise management and diplomatic efforts aimed at containing the crisis with Iraq, which led to the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding, thus enhancing the role and credibility of the United Nations.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a Security Council document.

(Signed) Mohammad J. SAMHAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Letter dated 11 March 1998 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates addressed to the Secretary-General

Allow me, first of all, to express the appreciation and satisfaction of the United Arab Emirates following your success in concluding an agreement with the Iraqi Government concerning Iraq's observance of the Security Council resolutions relating to the work of the Commission responsible for the elimination of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

The United Arab Emirates placed on record its position regarding the agreement when His Highness Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al-Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates, made the following statement: "We issued an appeal for the conclusion of this agreement and we stated that we were deeply committed to its conclusion, since we rejected military intervention. Likewise, we issued an appeal for full advantage to be taken of the diplomatic solution." His Highness then thanked and praised you for the valuable efforts you are continuing to make, and expressed the hope that the inspection teams would carry out their tasks as quickly as possible so as to pave the way for the lifting of the sanctions imposed on our brothers and sisters in Iraq.

The agreement between the United Nations and Iraq is an achievement likely to enhance the role and credibility of the United Nations, and to reaffirm the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq by protecting it from third-party interference in its internal affairs.

The United Arab Emirates takes this opportunity to reiterate its appeal for the international rule of law to prevail in all parts of the world, particularly in the Middle East, a region that continues to experience Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories and other Arab territories. In this connection, we hope that tangible expression will be given to the international rule of law in accordance with the principles and rules underlying the peace process and the related agreements concluded between the parties concerned.

In conclusion, we can only convey to you our thanks and appreciation, and reaffirm that, without your wise management of the crisis and your indefatigable efforts to overcome all the obstacles, we would not have achieved this agreement, which has spared the region a devastating war and has created a climate of reconciliation and peaceful coexistence in keeping with the aspirations of our State and our people.

(Signed) Hamdan bin Zayed Al-Nahyan
Minister for Foreign Affairs